

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

10/521897

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau(43) International Publication Date
13 February 2003 (13.02.2003)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 03/012333 A3(51) International Patent Classification⁷: F16B 07/10

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US02/24579

(22) International Filing Date: 1 August 2002 (01.08.2002)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/309,357 1 August 2001 (01.08.2001) US

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(81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT (utility model), AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ (utility model), CZ, DE (utility model), DE, DK (utility model), DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE

(utility model), EE, ES, FI (utility model), FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK (utility model), SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

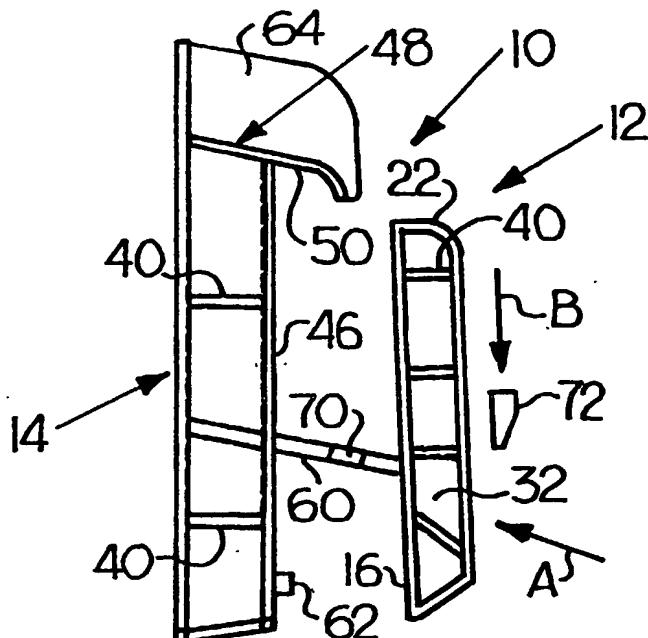
Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
18 December 2003

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: COUPLING APPARATUS



(57) Abstract: A coupling apparatus (10) includes a first coupling element (12) and a second coupling element (14). The first coupling element (12) has a mating surface (16) and a wedging surface (22) at the first end (18) of the first coupling element (12). An engagement surface (30) is located at the second end (20) of the first coupling element (12) and an alignment orifice (32) extends through the first coupling element (12). A second coupling element (14) also includes a mating surface (46) and a wedge member (48) at the first end (42) of the second coupling element (14). This wedge member (48) engages the wedging surface (22). An alignment member (60) at least partially extends through the alignment orifice (32), and a locking tab (62) extends from the second coupling element mating surface (46) and engages the engagement surface (30).

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US02/24579

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : F16B 07/10
US CL : 403/109.5, 211, 318, 350, 355, 374.1, 379.4, 409.1

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
U.S. : 403/109.5, 211, 318, 350, 355, 374.1, 379.4, 409.1

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6095255 (Geertson) 01 August 2000, figures 1-7	1-20
X	US 1622619 (Warren) 04 September 1926, figures 1-5	1-20

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

01 July 2003 (01.07.2003)

Date of mailing of the international search report

22 OCT 2003

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

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